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USIA

FOR: USINFO P/PFF, P/FW, EA FOR ART ZEGELBONE, P/M;  
STATE FOR EAP/J.

E.O. 12356: N/A  
SUBJECT: INTERVIEW IN NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN

1. FOLLOWING IS A LITERAL TRANSLATION OF AN INTERVIEW  
IN THE NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN PAGE 1 EDITION OF JAN. 14.

2. HEADLINE: "VERIFICATION OF JAPANESE AND US POLITICS  
-- PART I: DISCOVERING US CONGRESS (PART 13 -  
CONCLUSION) PERSONAL PLAY INCREASES AND SOLIDARITY  
WEAKENS; ABETS "POLITICALIZATION" OF JAPAN-US  
FRICTION": AMBASSADOR MANSFIELD SAYS

3. BEGIN TEXT

US AMBASSADOR TO JAPAN MICHAEL MANSFIELD. FROM 1942,  
WHEN HE WAS ELECTED TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FOR  
THE FIRST TIME, TO HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE SENATE IN  
1977, HE SERVED AS A CONGRESSMAN FOR AS MANY AS 35  
YEARS. ESPECIALLY, FOR 16 YEARS FROM 1961, HE SERVED  
AS DEMOCRATIC PARTY SENATE MAJORITY LEADER, AND HE MADE  
EFFORTS FOR THE DEMOCRATIZATION OF THE SENATE, SUCH AS  
THE PUSHING OF THE APPOINTMENT OF YOUNGER MEMBERS TO  
IMPORTANT POSTS, ETC. THIS PAPER SOUGHT AN INTERVIEW  
WITH AMBASSADOR MANSFIELD, WHO HAS OFTEN BEEN CALLED A  
TRUE STATESMAN, ABOUT THE PRESENT STATE OF THE US  
CONGRESS.

QUESTION: IT IS OFTEN SAID THAT THERE ARE NO LONGER  
ANY STATESMEN IN THE US CONGRESS. DO YOU ALSO FEEL THE  
SAME?

ANSWER: INDIVIDUALISM HAS INCREASED IN THE US  
CONGRESS. ORGANIZATIONAL STRENGTH HAS LESSENED, AND  
SOLIDARITY IS STEADILY WEAKENING. EACH INDIVIDUAL  
CONGRESSMAN IS MOVING ARBITRARILY IN WHATEVER DIRECTION  
HE LIKES. THIS IS MAKING THINGS DIFFICULT FOR THE US  
GOVERNMENT, AND PARTY CONTROL HAS ALSO LOST ITS EFFECTS  
ALMOST COMPLETELY.

I DO NOT KNOW WELL WHAT THE BACKGROUND IS, BUT IT SEEMS  
TO ME THAT THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE HAVE MERGED  
TOGETHER AND, WITH ALL MEMBERS MELTING INTO IT, THAT IT

*Sen Nunn*  
*Sen Bradley*  
*SA SC*

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HAS BECOME A HOMOGENEOUS EXISTENCE. UNLESS ONE IS THE SPEAKER, THE MAJORITY AND MINORITY LEADERS AND CHAIRMEN OF IMPORTANT COMMITTEES, ONE IS NOT RECOGNIZED AS A FULL-FLEDGED CONGRESSMEN THESE DAYS. AS A NATURAL RESULT, EACH CONGRESSMAN RUSHES AROUND ON ONE'S OWN, WORKING SOLELY FOR HIS OWN CONSTITUENTS.

QUESTION: WHAT QUALITIES ARE NEEDED FOR A PERSON TO BE RECOGNIZED AS A TRUE STATESMAN IN TODAY'S CONGRESS?

ANSWER: IT DEPENDS ON WHAT POSITION A PERSON HOLDS AND HOW HE IS ACTING IN THAT POSITION, AND ON WHAT PHILOSOPHY HE HAS AND HOW HE EXPRESSES IT. SENATOR BRADLEY AND ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN NUNN ARE NOT ESPECIALLY PHOTOGENIC ON TELEVISION, BUT THEY HAVE EARNED THE HIGH APPRECIATION OF THE PEOPLE BY SHOWING OUTSTANDING IDEAS AND PROPOSALS ALWAYS IN A MODEST WAY.

TODAY, HOWEVER, IT HAS BECOME VERY DIFFICULT, WHEN COMPARED WITH 20 OR MORE YEARS AGO, TO FIND SUCH OUTSTANDING STATESMEN LIKE THEM. OF COURSE, I THINK THAT THE EVALUATION OF GREAT STATESMEN IN THE PAST WAS A LITTLE EXAGGERATED. IT WAS JUST THAT THEY WERE BLESSED WITH MANY FORTUNATE OPPORTUNITIES.

RE-ELECTION IS FOREMOST PRIORITY FOR CONGRESSMEN

QUESTION: THERE IS A CONSIDERABLE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESSES IN JAPAN AND THE US, AND IT SEEMS THAT THERE IS AN ASPECT THAT THIS DIFFERENCE IS GIVING RISE TO THE JAPAN-US FRICTION ...

ANSWER: DIFFERENT FROM THE JAPANESE DIET, WHICH IS OF THE BRITISH TYPE, THE US CONGRESS IS COMPLETELY SEPARATED FROM AND INDEPENDENT OF THE ADMINISTRATION AND THE JUDICIARY. FOR THIS REASON, THE DECIDING OF POLICIES IS NOT EASY, COMPARED WITH JAPAN WHERE THE GOVERNMENT AND THE RULING PARTY ARE ONE. THIS IS ESPECIALLY TRUE UNDER A SITUATION AS AT PRESENT, WHERE THE PRESIDENT IS A REPUBLICAN BUT WHERE THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY IS IN THE MAJORITY IN CONGRESS.

ESPECIALLY IN THE FIELD OF THE ECONOMY AND TRADE,  
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SUBJECT: INTERVIEW IN NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN

POLITICS FREQUENTLY PLAYS A DOMINATING ROLE IN POLICY DECISIONS. IT IS FOR THIS REASON THAT JAPAN-US ECONOMIC PROBLEMS BECOME POLITICALIZED AND THAT IT BECOMES DIFFICULT TO HANDLE THEM AS ECONOMIC AND TRADE PROBLEMS. THE GREATER THE INFLUENCE OF POLITICS, THE MORE DIVORCED FROM BASIC FACTORS AND THE ACTUAL SITUATION THE POLICIES BECOME AND THE MORE DIFFICULT IT BECOMES TO DISCOVER A PROPER SETTLEMENT MEASURE.

QUESTION: DO YOU THINK THAT JAPANESE LEADERS UNDERSTAND THAT KIND OF ACTUAL SITUATION IN THE US CONGRESS?

ANSWER: I DO NOT KNOW. WHAT I TRY TO EXPLAIN, WITH ESPECIAL EMPHASIS, TO THE JAPANESE PEOPLE, IS THAT FOR AMERICAN CONGRESSMEN, WHETHER THEY ARE SENATORS OR

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REPRESENTATIVES, THEIR BIGGEST GOAL IS RE-ELECTION, AND THAT THEY THINK, FIRST OF ALL, WHAT WILL BE OF BENEFIT TO THEIR LOCAL CONSTITUENTS. ESPECIALLY IN THE CASE OF HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES MEMBERS, FOR WHOM THE TERM OF OFFICE IS TWO YEARS, THEY MUST START ELECTION ACTIVITIES IN THE DIRECTION OF RE-ELECTION, FROM IMMEDIATELY AFTER THEY ARE ELECTED. I THINK THAT THE TERM OF OFFICE FOR THE MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OUGHT TO BE FOUR OR FIVE YEARS.

ROLE OF MEDIATING AMONG VARIOUS PRESSURES

QUESTION: THERE IS THE CRITICISM THAT STAFFERS, ESPECIALLY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSISTANTS (LA), HAVE COME TO HOLD REAL POWER IN CONGRESS AND THAT THIS IS GIVING RISE TO UNNECESSARY FRICTION ...

ANSWER: I THINK THAT SUCH A VIEW IS CORRECT. BOTH THE SENATORS AND REPRESENTATIVES RELY TO A CONSIDERABLE EXTENT ON THEIR STAFFERS, AND IN SEVERAL FIELDS, THE STAFFERS ARE WIELDING VERY GREAT INFLUENCE. AS A RESULT, THE ACTIONS OF THE CONGRESSMEN THEMSELVES ARE BEING OVER-SHADOWED.

OF COURSE, ALL KINDS OF PRESSURE FALL ON THE CONGRESSMEN, AND IT IS TRUE THAT THEY CANNOT PAY PERSONAL ATTENTION TO EVERY PROBLEM. I RETIRED FROM THE SENATE BECAUSE I MADE A MISTAKE, DUE TO VARIOUS PRESSURES. THE PRESSURE FALLING ON THE CONGRESSMEN TODAY IS MUCH STRONGER. TODAY, THE CONGRESS IS PUT IN "THE ROLE OF A MEDIATOR AMONG VARIOUS PRESSURES."

NEED FOR CO-OPERATION, GIVING THOUGHT TO NATIONAL INTERESTS

QUESTION: THE INFLUENCE WHICH TELEVISION HAS ON LEGISLATIVE PROCESSES IN THE US IS ALSO BIG ...

ANSWER: THAT IS QUITE TRUE. IS NOT THE GREATEST DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE CONGRESS IN THE DAYS THAT I WAS A MEMBER AND TODAY'S CONGRESS THE INFLUENCE OF TELEVISION? TELEVISION HAS COME INTO OUR LIVING ROOMS, AND THE PEOPLE ARE CONSTANTLY WATCHING TELEVISION. THE CONGRESSMEN AND THE GOVERNMENT ALL USE TELEVISION FOR THEIR OWN PURPOSES. AS A RESULT, A TV PROGRAM OF ONE OR TWO MINUTES DECIDES THE PEOPLE'S POLITICAL ACTION. TODAY, THE SENSES OUTWEIGH REASON, AND ARE AFFECTING POLITICS.

QUESTION: IT SEEMS THAT THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE CONGRESS AND THE ADMINISTRATION, ESPECIALLY WITH THE WHITE HOUSE (THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE), IS CREAKING ...

ANSWER: THE CONGRESS AND THE PRESIDENT OUGHT TO CO-OPERATE WITH EACH OTHER MORE FROM THE VIEWPOINT OF WHAT IS IN THE INTERESTS OF THE NATION, AS A WHOLE. I THINK THAT THEY ARE NOW INTERFERING IN EACH OTHER TOO MUCH. IT IS ALSO NECESSARY TO DEEPEN MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING OVER INTERNATIONAL PROBLEMS.

QUESTION: SOME PEOPLE POINT OUT THAT POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEES (PAC) ARE GIVING BIRTH TO POLITICS WHICH COSTS MONEY AND THAT THEY ARE ERODING THE LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY PROCESSES IN THE US.

ANSWER: PAC'S ARE LAWFUL ORGANIZATIONS. IT IS TRUE  
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THAT ELECTION COSTS ARE INCREASING, YEAR BY YEAR, BUT  
IN ALL COUNTRIES, INCLUDING JAPAN, EXCEPT FOR THE  
COMMUNIST BLOC COUNTRIES, I THINK THAT MONEY IS A  
NECESSARY ELEMENT FOR THE MAINTAINING OF A DEMOCRATIC  
POLITICAL SYSTEM. OF COURSE, SOME DEGREE OF  
RESTRICTIONS IS NECESSARY, AND THE US GOVERNMENT OUGHT  
TO ESTABLISH STRICTER RESTRICTIONS ON POLITICAL FUNDS.

(EDITORIAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS MASAO KANASASHI AND  
KAZUTAMI YAMAZAKI) BALL, ACTING

END OF MESSAGE

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